

Paul Cuffee School

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Annual Meeting

September 15, 2011

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Paul Cuffee School was held on September 15, 2011 at the Paul Cuffee Elementary School in Providence, Rhode Island.

Present: Su Almeida, Darline Berrios, David Burnham, Russell Carey, John Cariati, Tom Chen, William Clifton, Allyn Copp, Robert Kelley, Keith S. Mathews, Alex Molina, Maria Monteiro, Joop Nagtegaal, Martha Newcomb, Dorothy Patrick, Carolyn Pemberton, Ana-Cecilia Rosado, Earl Smith III, Babak Taleghani.

Excused: Stefano Crema, Dorothy L. Fields, Leanne Nyahkoon, Ana-Cecilia Rosado.

Paul Cuffee Staff Present: Jonathan Conklin, Becky Coustan, Annmarie DeBrito, Julia Karahalidis, Olinda Matos, Michael Obel-Omia.

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m. with a moment of silence. President Joop Nagtegaal began by welcoming everyone to the first meeting of the Board of Trustees of the 2011 – 2012 academic year. He welcomed new trustees Darline Berrios, Tom Chen and Alex Molina as well as new assistant to the head of school Annmarie DeBrito. He commented on the state of political affairs and education

reform in Rhode Island, with the encouraging news that there continues to be quite a bit of support for charter schools.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the June 16, 2011 annual meeting of the Board were approved unanimously with corrections noted. The motion to approve was made by Su Almeida and seconded by Keith Mathews.

Head of School Report

Mr. Obel-Omia reviewed several items from his report, circulated to the Board in advance of the meeting. The summer academy for seventh graders went very well, as has the opening of the school year. Much activity took place over the summer with regard to discussions with RIDE on topics such as teacher evaluation. There are a number of important events taking place this fall, including the dedication of a Paul Cuffee Park in conjunction with the New Bedford Whaling Museum. Julia Karahalidis provided an update on the theme for the Annual Fund this year, the goal of which is \$150,000. Michael also reported on the recent eighth grade trip to Mt. Monadnock and board development opportunities available to trustees through the Rhode Island Foundation. There were questions for Michael and discussion among the Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

Babak Taleghani delivered the report of the Finance Committee. He reviewed the budget summary which had been circulated to the Board in advance of the meeting, including revenues and expenses and the school's loan covenant calculation and ratios. There were questions for Babak and discussion among the Board. Following discussion, Carolyn Pemberton moved that the 2011-2012 budget, as recommended by the Finance Committee and presented to the Board, be approved. Keith Mathews seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Committee on Trusteeship & Governance

Maria Monteiro delivered the report of the Committee, including the recommendation of the Committee that Darline Berrios be elected to the Board of Trustees. John Cariati moved that the recommendation of the Committee be approved, Su Almeida seconded, and it was approved unanimously. Darline Berrios, who had recused herself for the report of the Committee, was welcomed back with applause from the Board.

Teacher Evaluation Presentation

Becky Coustan made a presentation to the Board regarding the

Rhode Island Educator Evaluation System which has been developed by RIDE. She noted that the process is new for the state but similar to what Paul Cuffee School has been doing for quite some time. She reviewed the various components of evaluation, including: student learning, professional practice, and professional responsibilities. There were questions from and discussion among the Board, and thanks expressed to Becky, Nell and Suzie who have working with RIDE and the teachers to implement the process.

Admissions Process

Olinda Matos made a presentation to the Board regarding the Paul Cuffee School admissions process. She reviewed the steps which are followed annually in a manner consistent with the RIDE Charter Enrollment Guidelines. She discussed various aspects of the admission process, including publicity and open houses and the sibling preference policy. There were questions from and discussion among the Board, and thanks expressed to Olinda for her excellent presentation and work.

New Business

Becky Coustan reported on the College T Shirt Project at the High School and invited donations and support from the Board. There was no other new business.

Adjournment

Dave Burnham moved to adjourn. Maria Monteiro seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell C. Carey, Clerk